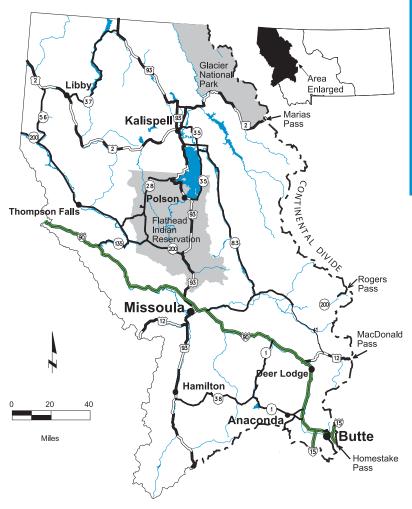
# **Western Fishing District**



Areas excluded from fishing districts. Additional regulations may apply. Other federal or tribal permits may be required.

### The Western Fishing District includes all waters in Montana west of the Continental Divide.

For additional information about fishing in this district, please call the following regional headquarters Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.:

Kalispell	406-752-5501
Missoula	
Hearing Impaired (use Montana Rel	

# **Western District Standard Regulations**

#### **Closed Waters**

Waters operated as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds by FWP and the US Fish and Wildlife Service shall be closed to fishing at all times. Waters in which FWP operates fish traps and other structures are closed to fishing as posted. Certain water-supply lakes, streams and hazardous areas are also closed as posted.

#### **Dam Closures and Use Restrictions**

In the interest of public health and safety, certain areas above and below most dams are closed to the public. These restrictions include areas where no public access is allowed below the ordinary high-water mark. The restricted areas are identified and delineated by signs and/or boat restraining systems.

The following dams are closed to all boating, sailing, floating, swimming, fishing or other recreational activity as marked by boat restraining systems or as posted to restrict access. Other dams not listed here may also be posted for restricted access. For more information call the FWP Fishing Access Coordinator at 406-444-7885, or contact the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) 406-293-7751, x255, AVISTA 406-847-2729, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) 406-387-5241, PacificCorp Energy 503-813-5513 or PPL Montana (PPL) 406-533-3415.

Big Fork Dam (PacifiCorp, Lake County)

Hungry Horse Dam (BOR, Flathead County)

Kerr Dam (PPL, Lake County)

Libby Dam (ACOE, Lincoln County)

Noxon Rapids Dam (AVISTA, Sanders County)

Thompson Falls Dam (PPL, Sanders County)

#### **Beaver Ponds**

Beaver ponds on streams are governed by the same regulations that govern the streams.

#### **Irrigation Canals and Ditches**

Man-made irrigation canals and ditches are open year round unless stated otherwise in exceptions to standard regulations. The same daily and possession limits apply to them as for rivers/streams. Anglers need to be aware that access to these canals and ditches is not guaranteed under the Montana Stream Access Law, and if on private property, permission must be obtained from the landowner to cross lands to access these waters. Under Montana's trespass law, permission is implied if the land is not posted, but that implied permission may be revoked at any time. It is best to obtain the explicit permission of the landowner. Where ditches cross land belonging to others, rights of the ditch owner versus those of the landowner vary. Therefore, always obey any sign clearly marking the ditch as closed to public access or fishing.

#### Reservoirs

Under normal operations, reservoir pool elevation, surface acreage and the mouths of the inlet stream(s) are expected to vary throughout the year. An imaginary line connecting the reservoir shoreline across the mouth of the stream marks the boundary between reservoir and stream/river, and the boundary will move as reservoir levels change. Streams are defined by a sloped streambed that results in a defined current flow between two discernible stream banks. Stream regulations apply upstream from the mouth of the reservoir and often are managed under seasons, limits and special regulations that differ from the reservoir regulations.

#### **Flathead Indian Reservation**

A tribal permit is required to fish on waters within the exterior boundary of the Reservation. Call tribal headquarters at 406-675-2700 for information.

#### **Transporting Live Fish**

An import permit is required to bring live fish into Montana. It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken except for transportation of fish for valid (approved) commercial purposes or as authorized by FWP.

#### **Boat and Motor Restrictions**

All passengers under the age of 12 must wear a personal floatation device (PFD) at all times when the boat is in motion if the boat is less than 26 feet long. A wearable, U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD must be available for each occupant of any boat.

# Methods of Taking Fish

- A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing.
- Spears and bows count as lines for purposes of determining line limits.
- All unattended fishing devices (cravfish traps, minnow traps, fish traps, setlines, etc.) must have the angler's name and phone number or name and ALS# attached.

#### **Hook and Line Limits**

#### Open Water

#### **Rivers and Streams**

• 1 line with 2 hooks per line, with or without a rod. The rod or line must be attended and in the angler's immediate control.

#### Lakes and Reservoirs

• 2 lines with 2 hooks per line, with or without a rod. Each line must be attended and in the angler's immediate control.

#### Ice Fishing

#### Lakes and Reservoirs

• 2 lines with 2 hooks per line on all lakes and reservoirs open to fishing. When a line is used through the ice, the angler need not be in immediate control but must be in the vicinity and in visual contact with the line.

#### Size of Hole

- In waters not open to spearing, the maximum size hole that may be used for ice fishing is 144 square inches or 12 inches in diameter.
- There is no size limit for a hole used for fishing with a spear.

**Shelters:** It is illegal to use any ice fishing shelter not conforming to the following rules: **Definition/use**: Any hut or enclosure constructed of any material, except ice or snow. for the purpose of ice fishing.

**Identification**: Identification must be painted on or otherwise affixed to all unattended shelters in legible, 2-inch letters plainly visible at a distance of 100 feet. Identification must include the owner's name and address, name and phone number, or 9/10-digit ALS number. Attended shelters at Brown's Lake and Georgetown Lake must also be identified.

**Inspection**: Each closed shelter shall have a door that an officer may readily open from the outside for inspection when it is occupied.

Waste and Rubbish Disposal: Owners and occupants of shelters are required to keep their shelters (and the area immediately around them) free from rubbish and trash. Anglers must remove waste materials before they leave for the day.

**Removal**: Daily removal of shelters is required on:

Browns Lake (near Ovando)

Echo Lake (near Anaconda)

Georgetown Lake

Removal After the Season: The owner of an ice fishing shelter shall remove it from the ice before it becomes irretrievable at the end of the season, or within five days from receipt of notification from FWP to remove the shelter.

#### **Setlines**

• Setlines (unattended lines) are not allowed in the Western Fishing District.

#### **Bow and Arrow**

 All waters are closed to bow-and-arrow taking of fish, except as noted under special regulations.

#### **Crossbows**

· Illegal.

# **Nets and Traps**

 Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish. See Bait Regulations for use of nets to harvest bait fish.

#### Snagging

 All waters are closed to snagging of game and non-game fish, except as otherwise noted under District Exceptions.

### **Spearing**

• All waters are closed to spearing of game and non-game fish.

# **Bait Regulations**

- Game fish, including yellow perch, may <u>not</u> be used as bait except as authorized below under Dead Bait.
- Possession of live fish or use of live fish as bait is prohibited in the Western Fishing District.
- It is illegal to release live bait of any kind into Montana waters; do not empty any live bait containers at your fishing site.
- Non-game fish except sculpins (genus Cottus), carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt may be taken for use as dead bait in the following manner:
  - with hook and line: or
  - with seines no larger than 12 feet by 4 feet; or
  - with minnow traps (the dimensions shall not exceed 24 inches x 12 inches x 12 inches); or
  - with cast nets (maximum 6-foot radius) and dip nets (no larger than 3 feet x 3 feet).
- See Commercial Fishing License requirements for information on commercial harvest permits.
- All unattended fishing devices (crayfish traps, minnow traps, fish traps, setlines, etc.) must have the angler's name and phone number or name and ALS# attached.

#### **Dead Bait**

- Non-game fish that are freshly killed or have been preserved by freezing, salting or
  pickling may be used whole or in pieces as bait on all waters not restricted to artificial
  lures only. Sculpins (genus *Cottus*) may not be used as bait, live or dead, in the
  Western Fishing District.
- Whole game fish may not be used as bait.
- Parts/pieces of bass, burbot (ling), black crappie, northern pike, or yellow perch may be used as bait if edible portions are not wasted.
- The eggs of char, cisco, grayling, salmon or trout may be used as bait. Other parts/ pieces of salmonids may not be used as bait.

#### **Live Bait**

- Live bait may not be imported into Montana without authorization from FWP.
- · Live animals such as meal worms, red worms, night crawlers, leeches, maggots, crayfish, reptiles, amphibians and insects may be used as bait on all waters not restricted to artificial flies and lures. Leeches may only be imported into Montana from FWP approved leech dealers. Anglers who import leeches must have in their possession a bill-of-sale from the approved out-of-state leech dealer when fishing with leeches in Montana. A list of approved out-of-state leech dealers may be obtained from FWP by calling 406-452-6181.

# **General Regulations**

Possession limit means the number of fish that you may possess at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved. It is illegal to preserve fish (salted, smoked, dried, canned, or otherwise preserved) before taking them to your permanent residence (the physical abode or structure you maintain as your principal, legal residence) unless those fish can be counted. Mobile recreational vehicles, travel trailers, tents or storage/freezer lockers do not qualify as permanent residences. No person may sell or take for the purpose of sale any fish except as authorized in commercial fishing regulations.

Daily limit means the number of fish you may legally take during a calendar day. It is unlawful to exceed the standard daily limit unless the regulations for the water body where you are fishing specify a different limit. "Legally taken" means fish caught and not immediately released alive. Where catch-and-release is allowed, fish immediately released alive are considered not taken. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the daily limit of the person originally hooking the fish, even if the fish is donated to another person. If you receive fish from another angler, those fish also become part of your daily limit. You may possess the daily limit allowed only for the body of water on which you are fishing.

# Handling and Transporting Legally Taken Fish

While a person is fishing, or while on the water or on the ice:

- All fish in possession must be visibly identifiable to species.
- · All fish in possession must be whole with head, skin, fins and tail attached. Gills and entrails may be removed.

Fish may be dressed and filleted for transport to your permanent residence, unless size limits apply, under the following conditions:

- All fish can be counted and identified. Two fillets will be counted as one fish. If the catch is frozen prior to transport, each fish or fillet must be packaged so it can be counted.
- Salmonids (trout, salmon, grayling, char and whitefish); the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.

# **General Fishing Seasons and Hours**

### Fishing Hours

• Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons unless otherwise specified in District Exceptions to Standard Regulations.

#### Fishing Season: Rivers and Streams

• Open third Saturday in May through November 30 unless otherwise specified in District Exceptions to Standard Regulations.

#### Fishing Season: Lakes and Reservoirs

• Open entire year unless otherwise specified in District Exceptions to Standard Regulations.

# **Western District Standard Daily and Possession Limits**

Each angler may take all of the limits listed in the chart, unless otherwise noted in the Western District Exceptions. For species not listed, there are no limits on the number of fish that may be taken or possessed.

Anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess the limit of fish allowed only for the water on which they are currently fishing.

<b>Species</b> D		Daily and Possession Limits
Brook trout		20 daily and in possession.
	Bull trout	All waters are closed to angling for bull trout and all fish must be immediately released unless otherwise authorized in the Western District Exceptions. See Special License Requirements on page 5. Note: Federal rules prohibit the attempted take of bull trout unless specifically authorized by state or tribal regulation.
T R O U T	Combined Trout includes brown trout,	Lakes/Reservoirs: 5 daily and 10 in possession, only 1 over 22 inches daily.
	rainbow trout, golden trout and grayling	Rivers/Streams: 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 14 inches.
	Combined Trout	Lakes/Reservoirs: 3 daily and in possession, no size limit.
	in Bob Marshall Complex	Rivers/Streams: 3 daily and in possession, none over 12 inches.
	Wilderness Areas¹ and South Fork Flathead includes rainbow trout, grayling and cutthroat trout	'Applies to all rivers, streams and lakes in the South Fork Flathead River drainage from Hungry Horse Dam to the wilderness boundary and all waters within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat wilderness areas, unless otherwise specified in the District Exceptions.
	Cutthroat trout	Lakes/Reservoirs: 3 daily and in possession, no size limit. Rivers/Streams: 3 daily and in possession, none over 10 inches.
	Lake trout	10 daily and in possession.
Ва	5 daily and in possession, no size limit. Third Saturday in May through June 30:1 daily and in possession, must be over 22 inches.	
Bu	Burbot (ling) 5 daily and in possession.	
Ko	Kokanee salmon 20 daily and 40 in possession.	
Northern pike 15 daily and in possession.		,
Transcora goon		this is an endangered species and all fish must be released immediately.  All waters are closed to angling for white sturgeon.
Wh	Whitefish 20 daily and 40 in possession.	

2015 GENERAL FISHING SEASON		
		Lakes and Reservoirs
Western District	Open third Saturday in May through November 30, unless otherwise specified in Exceptions to Standard Regulations.	Open all year

If you don't find the water you are looking for listed in the district exceptions, use the standard regulations for the district you are fishing in.

### **Western District Exceptions To Standard Regulations**

Check the following list of waters for the body of water you intend to fish in the Western District. If the body of water is not found in the listing of Exceptions, all of the Western District standard seasons, daily/possession limits, and standard regulations apply. Standard regulations apply for species not listed in the Exceptions.

### Waterbody/Section

# **Exceptions to Standard Regulations**

#### ABBOT LAKE

· Bass: 1 daily and in possession from the third Saturday in May to July 1, must be over 22 inches. 5 daily and in possession from July 1 to the third Saturday in May, only 1 over 12 inches.

# ALICE CREEK (tributary to Blackfoot River) -

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.

#### ANACONDA SETTLING POND SYSTEM

• See Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area.

#### **ASHLEY LAKE** -

#### Entire lake

Salmon: 35 daily and 70 in possession.

#### Inlet tributaries

· Closed entire year.

# BEAR CREEK (tributary to Middle Fork Flathead River) -

 Angling is closed within 150-yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through September 30.

#### BEAVER CREEK (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.

# **BELMONT CREEK (tributary to Blackfoot River)**

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.
- Artificial lures only within 100-yard radius of mouth.

# BIG CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (tributary to North Fork Flathead River) -

Closed entire year.

# Mouth of Bia Creek

· Angling is closed within 150-yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through September 30 unless posted at a greater distance.

# BITTERROOT LAKE (see Little Bitterroot Lake)

#### **BITTERROOT RIVER (note: river flows south to north)**

Ditches, canals and sloughs between US 93 and east side highway, and between Hamilton and the Florence Bridge

• Regulations are the same as the adjacent river section.

Bitterroot River from confluence of the East and West Forks to the mouth, West Fork Bitterroot River downstream from Painted Rocks Dam, and East Fork Bitterroot River downstream from Star Falls

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Extended season for northern pike and whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

#### West Fork Bitterroot River downstream from Painted Rocks Dam

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout and rainbow trout.
- Brown trout: 3 daily and in possession.

#### East Fork Bitterroot River downstream from Star Falls

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout and rainbow trout.
- Brown trout: 3 daily and in possession.

# Bitterroot River from confluence of East and West Forks $\it t$ 0 the north boundary of the Woodside Bridge FAS

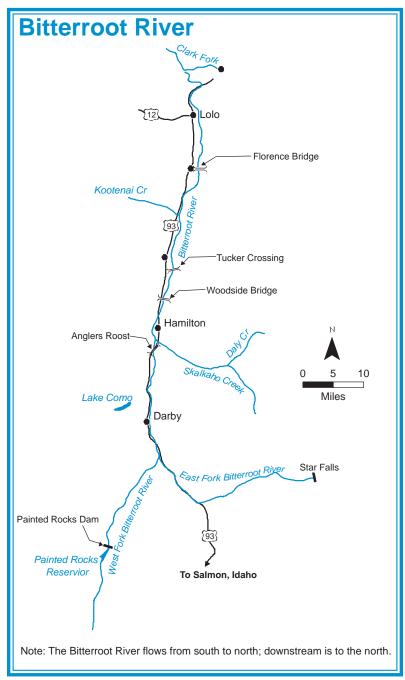
- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 rainbow or brown trout daily and in possession, only 1 over 14 inches.

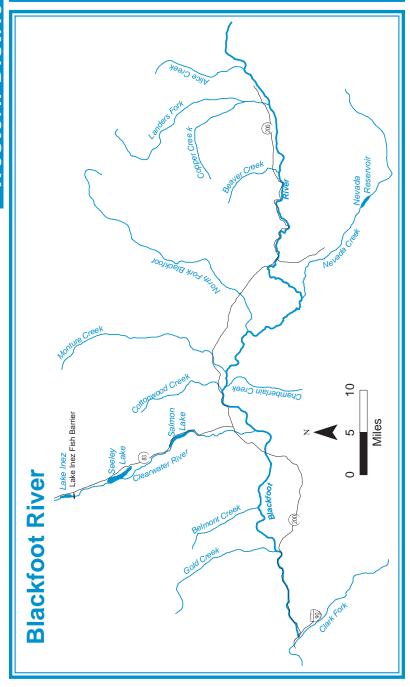
#### North Boundary of the Woodside Bridge FAS to Florence Bridge

- · Catch-and-release for all trout.
- · Artificial lures only.

#### Florence Bridge to mouth of Bitterroot River

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 rainbow or brown trout daily and in possession, only 1 over 14 inches





28 Turn In Poachers. Enough is Enough! Make the call: 1-800 TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668)

#### **BLACKFOOT RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES**

# Mainstem and all tributaries except the Clearwater River

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout. (See Clearwater River Drainage for exception.)
- Artificial lures only within 100-yard radius of the mouths of Belmont Creek, Copper Creek, Gold Creek, Monture Creek and North Fork Blackfoot River.

### Mainstem only

 Extended season for northern pike and whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggets only. Tributaries are closed to fishing.

# Mainstem from Landers Fork mouth downstream to the confluence with the Clark Fork River

· Catch-and-release for brook trout. (This regulation is a result of bull trout being misidentified and harvested as brook trout. Brook trout are very rare in this section of river whereas bull trout are common.)

#### BLANCHARD LAKE (near Whitefish)

- Northern pike: 5 daily and in possession, 4 less than 28 inches and 1 greater than 36 inches.
- Bass: 1 daily and in possession, must be over 22 inches.

#### **BLUE SKY CREEK**

Closed entire year.

# **BOOTJACK LAKE (near Whitefish)**

- · Open April 1 through November 30.
- Combined Trout: 1 daily and in possession, 22-inch minimum.
- · Artificial lures only.

#### **BUFFALOHEAD POND** -

 Catch-and-release for trout, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may take 5 trout daily, 10 in possession.

#### CEDAR CREEK (tributary to Clark Fork River)

Artificial lures only, including within a 100-yard radius of the mouth.

#### CHAMBERLAIN CREEK (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.

#### **CHURCH SLOUGH**

- · Open entire year.
- Bass: 1 daily and in possession from the third Saturday in May to July 1, must be over 22 inches. 5 daily and in possession from July 1 to the third Saturday in May, only 1 over 12 inches.
- Hook and Line: 2 rods and/or lines with up to 2 hooks per line all year.

#### CIBID LAKE

• Combined Trout: 4 under 12 inches and only 1 over 22 inches daily and in possession.

#### **CLARENCE CREEK (near Eureka)** -

· Closed entire year.

# CLARK FORK RIVER

# Upstream from Perkins Lane Bridge, near Warm Springs

- · Open entire year.
- · Catch-and-release only.
- · Artificial lures only.
- Closed to fishing from boats/vessels.

# Perkins Lane Bridge, near Warm Springs, to mouth of Flathead River

- Closed to fishing from about 2 1/2 miles upstream from the confluence of the Blackfoot River to about 1/2 mile downstream, as posted.
- Extended season for northern pike and whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, none over 15 inches.
- Northern pike: no limit.
- Artificial lures only within a 100-yard radius of the mouths of Rattlesnake Creek, Petty Creek, Fish Creek, Cedar Creek, Dry Creek, Trout Creek and St. Regis River.

# Mouth of Flathead River to mouth of Thompson River

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Whitefish: open entire year with maggots or lures.
- Northern pike: open entire year with bait or lures.

#### Mouth of Thompson River to Idaho Border

- · Open entire year.
- Combined Trout: 5 daily and 10 in possession, only 1 over 22 inches.
- Cutthroat trout: 3 daily and in possession, no size limit.
- Hook and Line: 2 lines with up to 2 hooks per line all year.

# CLEARWATER RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES (lakes not included, see exceptions for individual lakes elsewhere)

# Clearwater River upstream from the Salmon Lake inlet and all tributaries of the Clearwater River except the West Fork and Marshall Creek

- Closed to fishing from Rainy Lake fish barrier downstream for 100 yards.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Northern Pike: no limit, open to spearing.
- Snagging: open for salmon from Lake Inez outlet to Seeley Lake inlet from September 15 through November 30. Closed to snagging from Seeley Lake outlet to Salmon Lake inlet.

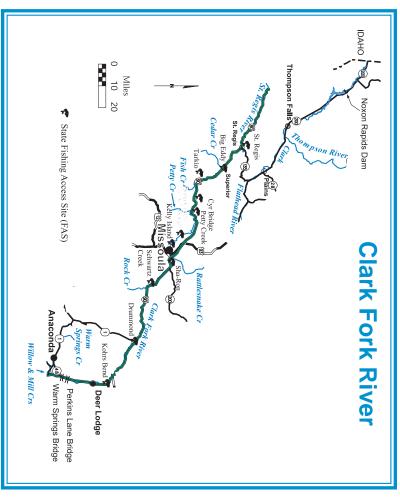
NOTE: Clearwater River sections between lakes are closed to fishing from Dec. 1 until the third Saturday in May. This includes the Clearwater River section from outlet of Seeley Lake at Riverview Drive Bridge ("Dogtown") downstream to inlet of Salmon Lake.

# Clearwater River from Salmon Lake outlet to mouth, including Blanchard Lake and Elbow Lake

- · Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- · Catch-and-release for bass.
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily and in possession, none over 12 inches.
- Northern Pike: no limit, open to spearing.

# COAL CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (tributary to North Fork Flathead River) —

· Closed entire year.



#### **COPPER CREEK (tributary to Blackfoot River)** -

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- · Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.
- Artificial lures only, including within a 100-yard radius of the mouth.

# COTTONWOOD CREEK (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- · Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.

#### DALY CREEK (tributary to Skalkaho Creek)

· Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

### Waterbody/Section

# **Exceptions to Standard Regulations**

#### DRY BRIDGE POND

 Catch-and-release for trout, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may take 1 trout daily and in possession.

# DRY CREEK (tributary to Clark Fork River) -

• Artificial lures only within 100-yard radius of the mouth.

# DUNHAM CREEK (tributary to Monture Creek, Blackfoot drainage)

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.
- · Artificial lures only.

#### EAST FORK BITTERROOT RIVER DOWNSTREAM FROM STAR FALLS

- Extended season for northern pike and whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.
- Catch-and-release for rainbow trout and cutthroat trout.
- Brown trout: 3 daily and in possession.

#### **ECHO LAKE (near Anaconda)**

- · Open third Saturday in May through March 31.
- Combined Trout: 5 daily and in possession, includes brook trout.

# ECHO LAKE (near Bigfork)

- Bass: 1 daily and in possession from the third Saturday in May to July 1, must be over 22 inches. 5 daily and in possession from July 1 to the third Saturday in May, only 1 over 12 inches.
- Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only, daily limit of 2.

# **ELK CREEK (tributary to Swan River)**

Closed entire year.

#### **EMILY SPRINGS (tributary to Georgetown Lake)**

Closed entire year.

# **EUREKA POND**

 Catch-and-release for trout, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may take 1 trout daily and in possession.

#### **FENNON SLOUGH**

- · Open entire year.
- Bass: 1 daily and in possession from the third Saturday in May to July 1, must be over 22
  inches. 5 daily and in possession from July 1 to the third Saturday in May, only 1 over 12 inches.
- Hook and Line: 2 rods and/or lines with up to 2 hooks per line all year.

# FISH CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (Clark Fork River drainage) -

#### **E**ntire drainage

Artificial lures only, including within a 100-yard radius of the mouth.

#### Mainstem downstream of the confluence of the South and West forks

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 rainbow or brown trout in any combination daily and in possession, none over 15 inches.

#### FISHTRAP CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (Thompson River drainage)

#### **Excluding Fish Trap Lake**

- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, none over 10 inches.
- Artificial lures only.
- 32 | If you see this icon, turn to page 14 for information on SportFish Consumption Guidelines.

# FLATHEAD LAKE

# Flathead Lake north of Flathead Indian Reservation boundary

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Whitefish: 100 daily and in possession.
- Lake trout: 100 daily and in possession, only 1 over 36 inches, and all fish 30 to 36 inches must be released.

NOTE: A Flathead Indian Reservation Tribal Permit is required to fish on the southern portion of the lake. Check Tribal Fishing regulations for the south portion of lake.

#### FLATHEAD RIVER

# Confluence of the North and Middle forks (near Blankenship Bridge) downstream to Flathead Lake

- Extended season for whitefish and lake trout, and catch-and-release for other game fish, except northern pike, from December 1 through the third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only. From the mouth of the Stillwater River downstream to Flathead Lake, no maggots and no scented artificial lures (infused, saturated or applied).
- Northern pike: extended season for northern pike from December 1 through February 28. artificial lures only.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- · Whitefish: 100 daily and in possession.
- Combined Trout: 5 daily and in possession.
- Lake trout: 15 daily and in possession.

#### Flathead Indian Reservation boundary to mouth

- Open entire year.
- Bass: Open entire year, 5 daily and in possession, no size limit.

#### FLATHEAD RIVER SLOUGHS

# Brenneman, Church, Egan, Fennon, Half Moon, McWennegar, and Rose Creek

- Open entire year.
- Combined Trout: 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 22 inches.
- Cutthroat trout: 3 daily and in possession, no size limit.
- Hook and Line: 2 rods and/or lines with up to 2 hooks per line all year.

#### Church and Fennon

Bass: 1 daily and in possession from the third Saturday in May to July 1, must be over 22 inches. 5 daily and in possession from July 1 to the 3rd Saturday in May, only 1 over 12 inches.

# FLINT CREEK

# **D**ownstream from Georgetown Lake

· Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only.

#### FRANK LAKE

#### Northwest 1/4 of the lake, as posted

Catch-and-release for rainbow trout from March 15 to May 1.

# FRED BURR LAKE (Granite County)

#### Philipsburg water supply

· Closed entire year.

# Waterbody/Section Exceptions to Standard Regulations

#### FRENCHTOWN POND

Catch-and-release for bass.

# GEORGETOWN LAKE

- Open third Saturday in May through March 31, except for the South and East shoreline area which is only open July 1 through March 31. South and East shorelines area described as follows: all waters from the shore or within 100 yards of shore in the area extending from a point 200 yards west of Denton's Point Marina (along the shore, including all of Stuart Mill Bay) to a point 200 yards north from the mouth of North Fork Flint Creek.
- · Salmon: no daily or possession limit.
- Combined Trout, includes brook trout: 5 daily and in possession, of which no more than 2 may be brook trout.

### Tributaries to Georgetown Lake (Hardtla, North Fork Flint, and Stuart Mill creeks)

- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Emily Springs: Closed entire year.
- Catch-and-release for brook trout.

#### **GERMAN GULCH**

#### Mainstem and tributaries

Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout

### GOAT CREEK (tributary to Swan River)

· Closed entire year.

#### GOLD CREEK (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.
- Artificial lures only, including within 100-yard radius of the mouth.

# **GRANITE CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (Middle Fork Flathead River drainage)**

· Closed entire year.

#### **GRAVE CREEK (near Eureka) -**

 Snagging: open for salmon from Highway 93 bridge downstream to mouth September 15 through November 30. Standard limits apply.

#### HARDTLA CREEK (tributary to Georgetown Lake)

- · Open July 1 through November 30.
- Catch-and-release for brook trout.
- Combined Trout: 5 daily and in possession.

# **HEIRONYMOUS POND**

• Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, includes cutthroat trout and brook trout.

### HERRIG CREEK (tributary to Little Bitterroot Lake)

Closed entire year.

#### HOLLAND CREEK

#### Mouth on Holland Lake upstream to the Falls

Closed entire year.

#### HORSESHOE LAKE (near Ferndale) -

· Catch-and-release for bass.

# HORSESHOE LAKE (Thompson Chain of Lakes)

• Tiger muskellunge: 1 daily and in possession, must be over 40 inches.

#### **HUNGRY HORSE RESERVOIR -**

· Combined Trout: Western District Wilderness Limits apply.

#### Dam to Crossover Boat Ramp

· Bull trout: 1 daily and in possession from the third Saturday in May through August 15, maximum of 2 fish per license year. Catch-and-release the rest of the year with a Hungry Horse/South Fork Flathead permit validation on fishing license. A Hungry Horse/South Fork Flathead Bull Trout Catch Card must be in possession when fishing for bull trout. See Special Licenses requirements for application information. All bull trout must be released immediately or killed and counted as your limit when harvest is allowed. It is unlawful to possess a live bull trout for any reason.

#### HUNGRY HORSE RESERVOIR TRIBUTARIES

- Combined Trout: Western District Wilderness Limits apply.
- Also see South Fork Flathead River regulations.

# JOB CORPS PONDS (Deer Lodge County)

#### See Warm Springs WMA map

- Open August 15 through September 30.
- Catch-and-release only.
- · Artificial lures only.
- Motorized boats/vessels prohibited.

#### **KEELER CREEK**

Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

#### **KOOTENAI RIVER**

 As per the District Standard, the Kootenai River is closed to angling for bull trout; any bull trout caught must be immediately released.

#### Libby Dam to Highway 37 Bridge, near Fisher River

- · Open June 1 through February 28.
- Combined Trout: 1 daily and in possession, 28 inch minimum length.

# Highway 37 Bridge, near Fisher River, to Idaho Border

- Open entire year.
- Combined Trout: 4 daily and in possession, includes 3 under 13 inches and only 1 over 18 inches.

#### Kootenai Falls to 0.8 miles downstream of Swinging Bridge

Snagging: open for salmon from September 15 through November 30.

#### LAKE ALVA

- · Catch-and-release for bass.
- · Northern pike: no limit.
- Salmon: 5 daily and 10 in possession.
- Spearing: open for northern pike.

#### LAKE CREEK (near Troy)

• Snagging: open for salmon from September 15 through November 30.

#### LAKE INEZ

- Catch-and-release for bass.
- Northern pike: no limit.
- Salmon: 5 daily and 10 in possession.
- Spearing: open for northern pike.

# LAKE KOOCANUSA

- Closed to burbot (ling) fishing January 15 to March 1.
- Salmon: 50 daily and 100 in possession.
- · Rainbow trout: Adipose clipped fish less than 22 inches must be released (see location of adipose fin on the rainbow trout color plate at the front of this booklet).
- Bull trout: Catch-and-release only. A Lake Koocanusa Bull Trout Catch Card must be in possession when fishing for bull trout. See Special Licenses requirements for application information. All bull trout must be released immediately. It is unlawful to possess a live bull trout for any reason.

# LAKE MARY RONAN

- Open March 1 to third Saturday in May: vellow perch and northern pike only.
- Open third Saturday in May through the end of February.
- Salmon: 10 daily and 20 in possession.
- Bass: open third Saturday in May through June 30: only 1 over 22 inches. Open July 1 through the end of February: 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 12 inches. Closed March 1 to the third Saturday in May.
- · Northern Pike: no limit.
- Spearing: open for northern pike.

# LANDERS FORK (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.

### LION CREEK (tributary to Swan River) -

· Closed entire year.

#### Mouth of Lion Creek

· Closed to angling June 1 through September 30 within a 150-yard radius of the stream mouth, unless posted at a greater distance.

#### LITTLE BITTERROOT LAKE aka Bitterroot Lake

- Salmon: 20 daily and 40 in possession, no more than 2 daily and 4 in possession over 12 inches.
- · Bass: No daily or possession limit for entire year.

#### LITTLE BLACKFOOT RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

#### Mainstem river

- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

### **T**ributaries

· Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

# LODGEPOLE CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (Middle Fork Flathead River drainage)

Closed entire year.

# LONG CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (Middle Fork Flathead River drainage)

Closed entire year.

# LOON LAKE (near Ferndale) -

· Combined Trout: 4 less than 12 inches and only 1 over 22 inches daily and in possession.

# Waterbody/Section

### **Exceptions to Standard Regulations**

# LOST LAKE (Eureka)

- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Combined Trout: 1 daily and in possession, 22-inch minimum.
- · Artificial lures only.

# LOWER STILLWATER LAKE |

Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only.

#### LOWER THOMPSON LAKE

- Salmon: 10 daily and 20 in possession.
- Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only.

# MARSHALL CREEK (tributary to West Fork Clearwater River)

Artificial lures only.

### McCORMICK POND aka Silver's Lagoon (Missoula)

- · Open April 1 through October 30.
- 3 fish daily and in possession, any species.
- Open to fishing for anglers 14 years of age and younger.

# MEDICINE LAKE AND TRIBUTARIES (near Philipsburg)

#### Lake

Open July 1 through April 30.

# Tributaries to lake

Open July 1 through November 30.

#### MIDDLE FORK FLATHEAD RIVER DRAINAGE

#### All streams within the wilderness

· Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, none over 12 inches in rivers and streams, no size limit in lakes. Includes rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and grayling.

# Non-wilderness portion

- Combined Trout: 5 daily and in possession.
- Closed to angling June 1 through September 30 within a 150-yard radius of the Bear Creek stream mouth.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

NOTE: Montana/Glacier National Park boundary is the ordinary high water mark on the park side of the river.

# MIDDLE THOMPSON LAKE

- · Salmon: 10 daily and 20 in possession.
- Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only.

### MILL CREEK (tributary to Clark Fork River)

#### Downstream from the Stewart Street Bridge in Opportunity

- Catch-and-release only.
- · Artificial lures only.

#### MONTURE CREEK (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.
- Artificial lures only, including within 100-yard radius of the mouth.

### MORRELL CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (tributary to Clearwater River)

# Entire drainage

Artificial lures only.

Mainstem from Cottonwood Lakes Road (USFS Rd 477) bridge upstream to Pyramid Pass Road (USFS Rd 4381) bridge

· Closed entire year.

# MORRISON CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (Middle Fork Flathead River drainage) -

· Closed entire year.

### NEVADA CREEK (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.

# NINEPIPES POND

 Catch-and-release for trout, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may take 5 trout daily and in possession, only 1 over 14 inches. A Flathead Indian Tribal Permit is required to fish on Ninepipes Pond.

# NORTH FORK BLACKFOOT RIVER (tributary to Blackfoot River)

#### **Entire river**

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout.

#### Downstream from the North Fork Falls

• Artificial lures only, including within a 100-yard radius of the mouth.

#### NORTH FORK FLATHEAD RIVER

- Closed to angling June 1 through September 30 within a 150-yard radius of the Big Creek stream mouth unless posted at a greater distance.
- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- · Combined Trout: 5 daily and in possession.

NOTE: Montana/Glacier National Park boundary is the middle of the river.

# NORTH FORK FLINT CREEK (tributary to Georgetown Lake)

- · Open July 1 through November 30.
- Catch-and-release for brook trout.
- Combined Trout: 5 daily and in possession.

# NOXON RAPIDS RESERVOIR

#### Birdland Bay Bridge to Noxon Rapids Dam

 Bass: 5 daily and in possession except from June 15 to July 15 only 1 daily and in possession, 22-inch minimum.

#### **PETERSON LAKE**

 Bass: 1 daily and in possession from the third Saturday in May to July 1, must be over 22 inches. 5 daily and in possession from July 1 to the third Saturday in May, only 1 over 12 inches.

#### PETTY CREEK (tributary to Clark Fork River)

- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, none over 15 inches.
- Artificial lures only within 100-yard radius of the mouth.

# PINE GROVE POND

 Catch-and-release for trout, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may take 1 trout daily and in possession.

### PLACID CREEK (tributary to Placid Lake)

- · Salmon: 5 daily and 10 in possession.
- Spearing: open for northern pike.
- Snagging: open for salmon October 15 through December 31, 20 salmon daily and 40 in possession.

#### PLACID LAKE (includes outlet arm to outlet control structure)

- Catch-and-release for bass.
- Northern pike: no limit.
- Salmon: 5 daily and 10 in possession.
- Spearing: open for northern pike.
- Snagging: open for salmon October 15 through December 31, 20 salmon daily and 40 in possession.

#### RACETRACK POND

 Catch-and-release for trout, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may take 3 trout daily and in possession.

# RATTLESNAKE CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (near Missoula)

#### Entire river

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, none over 15 inches.
- Artificial lures only, including within 100-yard radius of mouth.

#### **D**ownstream from the mouth of Beeskove Creek

· Closed to fishing from the mouth of Beeskove Creek to 100 yards downstream of Mountain Water Company Dam.

#### **ROCK CREEK (near Missoula)**

# From the confluence of the East and West forks, near Phillipsburg, to the mouth

- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only.
- · Combined Trout: 3 brown trout daily and in possession. Catch-and-release for rainbow trout and cutthroat trout.
- Artificial lures only, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may use bait during the general season.
- · Closed to fishing from boats/vessels July 1 through November 30.

### SALMON LAKE AND TRIBUTARIES

- Catch-and-release for bass.
- Northern pike: no limit.
- Salmon: 5 daily and 10 in possession.
- Spearing: open for northern pike.

#### SEELEY LAKE

- Bass: no daily or possession limit for entire year.
- Northern pike: no limit.
- Salmon: 5 daily and 10 in possession.
- Snagging: open for salmon October 15 through December 31, 20 salmon daily and 40 in possession.
- Spearing: open for northern pike.

### Waterbody/Section

# **Exceptions to Standard Regulations**

#### **SHADY LANE POND**

 Catch-and-release for trout, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may take 1 trout daily and in possession.

#### SILVERBOW CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES

#### **Mainstem and Tributaries**

· Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout

# SILVER'S LAGOON aka McCormick Pond (Missoula)

- · Open April 1 through October 30.
- 3 fish daily and in possession, any species.
- Open to fishing for anglers 14 years of age and younger.

### SILVER LAKE (near Anaconda) -

 Closed to fishing July 1 through September 30 within a 50 yard radius of the mouth of Storm Lake Creek.

# SKALKAHO CREEK (tributary to Bitterroot River)

· Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout, includes Daly Creek.

#### SOUTH FORK FLATHEAD RIVER DRAINAGE

All waters upstream from Hungry Horse Dam, including Hungry Horse Reservoir and tributaries except Meadow Creek section (see below)

 Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, no fish over 12 inches in rivers and streams, no size limit in lakes. Includes rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and grayling.

# Mainstem upstream from Hungry Horse Reservoir (from Crossover Boat Ramp south and upstream to the confluence of Youngs and Danaher creeks)

 Bull trout: catch-and-release from the third Saturday in May through July 31. A Hungry Horse/South Fork Flathead Bull Trout Catch Card must be in possession when fishing for bull trout. See Special License requirements for application information. All bull trout must be released immediately. It is unlawful to possess a live bull trout for any reason.

# Meadow Creek Bridge to Spotted Bear foot bridge and tributaries

- Catch-and-release only.
- · Artificial lures only.

#### Hungry Horse Dam downstream to Devil's Elbow and tributaries

· Closed entire year.

#### Devil's Elbow downstream to mouth and tributaries

- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

# SQUEEZER CREEK (tributary to Swan River)

· Closed entire year.

#### **ST REGIS RIVER**

- · Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout: 3 rainbow or brown trout in any combination daily and in possession, none over 15 inches.
- Artificial lures only within 100-yard radius of the mouth.

#### STILLWATER RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES (Flathead River drainage)

· Open entire year from mouth of Sunday Creek to lower Stillwater Lake.

# STORM LAKE CREEK (tributary to Silver Lake near Anaconda)

· Closed to fishing July 1 through September 30 from the Silver Lake diversion structure located near the stream mouth down to where the stream enters Silver Lake.

#### STUART MILL CREEK (tributary to Georgetown Lake)

- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Catch-and-release for brook trout.
- Combined Trout: 5 daily and in possession.

# SWAN LAKE CON -

· Bull trout: Catch-and-release only. All bull trout must be released immediately. It is unlawful to possess a live bull trout for any reason.

#### SWAN RIVER

 Closed to angling June 1 through September 30 within a 150-vard radius of the Woodward Creek and Lion Creek stream mouths, unless posted at a greater distance.

#### Piper Creek Bridge downstream to Swan Lake

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout and rainbow trout.
- · Artificial lures only.

# Swan Lake outlet downstream to the Highway 35 Bridge

- · Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

· Lake trout: 1 daily and in possession, must be over 42 inches.

#### THOMPSON RIVER

#### Entire river

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout and rainbow trout.
- Brown trout: 3 daily and in possession, any size.
- Artificial lures only, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may use bait.

#### Upstream from mouth of Little Thompson River

Closed to fishing December 1 to third Saturday in May.

### Mouth of Little Thompson River to the confluence with the Clark Fork River

• Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only.

#### TOBACCO RIVER

 Snagging: open for salmon September 15 through November 30. Standard limits apply.

# TRAIL CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (Yakinikak, N. Fork Flathead River drainage) -

· Closed entire year downstream from mouth of Thoma Creek.

#### TROUT CREEK (tributary to Clark Fork River)

· Artifical lures only within 100-yard radius of the mouth.

### TROY POND

· Catch-and-release for trout, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may take 1 trout daily and in possession.

#### UPPER STILLWATER LAKE

Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only.

# **Exceptions to Standard Regulations**

#### **UPPER THOMPSON LAKE**

- Salmon: 10 daily and 20 in possession.
- Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only.

- Catch-and-release for bass.
- Northern pike: no limit.
- Spearing: open for northern pike.

# WARM SPRINGS CREEK (near Anaconda)

# **U**pstream of Myers Dam

· Open from the third Saturday in May through November 30.

# Myers Dam to Warm Spring Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

- · Open from the third Saturday in May through November 30 except for the section from Myers Dam downstream 50 yards which is closed to fishing July 1 through September 30.
- Extended season: catch-and-release for trout December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures only.

# Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

Open entire year. See Warm Springs WMA for additional regulations.

# WARM SPRINGS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)

#### All waters

- Also see Job Corps Ponds.
- · All ponds and canals open August 15 through September 30 including Job Corps Ponds and Ducks Unlimited Ponds.
- Catch-and-release only. See Kid's Pond and Gravel Pit Pond for exceptions.
- Artificial lures only. See Kid's Pond and Gravel Pit Pond for exceptions.
- Motorized boats/vessels prohibited.

# Kids pond at WSWMA headquarters

- · Open entire year.
- Combined Trout: 2 daily and in possession.
- Bait may be used.
- Open to fishing by anglers 14 years of age and younger only. One rod per child.

#### Gravel Pit Pond adjacent to Highway 48

- Open entire year.
- Combined Trout: 2 daily and in possession.
- Bait may be used.

#### Hoa Hole

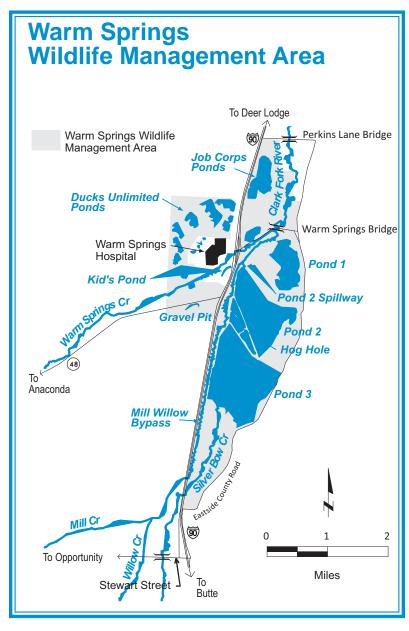
Open May 25 through September 30. No trespassing on islands.

#### Pond 3

Open May 25 through November 30 to fishing from non-motorized vessels.

# Mill-Willow Bypass, Warm Springs Creek and Clark Fork River

- Open entire year.
- Closed to fishing from boats/vessels.



# Waterbody/Section

# **Exceptions to Standard Regulations**

#### WEST FORK BITTERROOT RIVER DOWNSTREAM FROM PAINTED ROCKS DAM-

- Extended season for northern pike and whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout and rainbow trout.
- Brown trout: 3 daily and in possession.

### WEST FORK CLEARWATER RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

#### Entire drainage

Artificial lures only.

# West Fork Clearwater River upstream of confluence with Marshall Creek

· Closed entire year.

# WEST FORK QUARTZ CREEK (Kootenai River drainage)

· Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

#### WEST FORK THOMPSON RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

- Combined Trout: 3 daily and in possession, none over 10 inches.
- Artificial lures only.

# WHALE CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (North Fork Flathead River drainage) -

· Closed entire year downstream from Whale Creek Falls.

# WHITEFISH LAKE

 Lake trout: 20 daily and in possession, only 1 over 36 inches. All fish 30 to 36 inches must be released.

#### WHITEFISH RIVER

Open entire year from Whitefish Lake to State Highway 40 Bridge.

# **WILLOW CREEK (near Warm Springs)**

#### From Stewart Street Bridge to the Warm Springs WMA

- Catch-and-release only.
- · Artificial lures only.

#### WOODWARD CREEK

 Closed to angling within a 150-yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through September 30, unless posted at a greater distance.